

Rabbi Morris Kosman
201 E. Second St.,
Frederick, Md. 21071

12/3/85

Dear Rabbi Kosman,

The description of Roy Meachum as a columnist in the enclosed copy of my today's letter to the editor comes from another rabbi, dear friend of my youth and never a disciple of Stephen Leacock, if you are old enough to remember that Canadian professor and literary figure.

The longer I live the more I appreciate the recalled wisdom of others, like Santayana's belief that those of us who forget history are doomed to relive it. Robert Kennedy had a fine corruption of Dante that I do not recall to offend you, that there is a special corner of hell reserved for those who, in time of moral crisis, preserve their equanimity.

I regret very much that you did not see fit to return my call which, I said, was for the specific purpose of discussing the increasing manifestations of anti-Semitism by Meachum. He is inciting anti-Semitism, which is separate from being pro-Arab and anti-Israel, both of which he obviously is. I've sent him a copy of one such vilification I received and, I assure you, that however the situation may be, within my experience, it is only after a letter to the editor that I've ever seen any local manifestation of anti-Semitism. Now he has Jews killing Arab babies and about to be responsible for the killing of other, including American, babies.

Until it was too late, most American rabbis were silent in Hitler's day. To the degree that when I wanted to expose what Hitler was doing I turned to representatives of the European underground. Even the Poles, in fact the Poles most of all, provided me with information and copies.

About 50 years ago this other rabbi and I read Robert Nathan's Road of Ages. I've never forgotten Nathan's message, that a Jew is primarily something else, like a banker, a Communist, an industrialist, a trades-unionist, etc., and thus their plight.

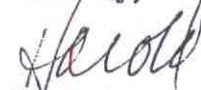
On a single day six Jewish merchants praised what I'd done and all refused to register any complaint with the papers. They thus feed the moth that bites them.

History, particularly Jewish history, teaches us that the past is prologue.

History also tells us about silence when men ought not be silent.

I am very sorry that you prefer silence and chose to ignore this updated libel, replacing Christ-killers. We are now all, collectively, responsible for the killing of Arab children and only Arab children are being killed.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg